

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 1:22-cv-22853

CHARLOTTE SMITH,

Plaintiff,

v.

CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC,

Defendant.

_____ /

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
AND DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH (hereinafter “SMITH”), through undersigned counsel, sues Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, (hereinafter “CARNIVAL”), and demands trial by jury, stating as follows:

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. SMITH seeks damages in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs, and attorneys’ fees.
2. This Court has admiralty and maritime jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1333.
3. This Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different states and/or citizens of a state and citizens or subjects of a foreign state.
4. Suit is filed in federal court because of the federal forum selection clause in the passenger contract ticket issued by CARNIVAL.
5. SMITH is *sui juris* and is a resident and citizen of the state of Texas.
6. CARNIVAL is a citizen of the state of Florida and the nation of Panama.

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7. CARNIVAL is a foreign corporation who is authorized to conduct and who does conduct business in the state of Florida, who at all times material hereto was and is doing business in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and who maintains its corporate headquarters and principal place of business in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

8. CARNIVAL, at all times material hereto, personally and/or through an agent, in Miami-Dade County, Florida, in the Southern District of Florida:

- a. Operated, conducted, engaged in, or carried on a business venture; and/or
- b. Had an office or agency; and/or
- c. Engaged in substantial activity; and/or
- d. Committed one or more of the acts stated in Florida Statutes, §§ 48.081, 48.181 or 48.193.

9. All conditions precedent for filing and maintaining this action have been fulfilled, have been waived, or do not apply.

DEFINITIONS AND FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. Hereinafter, the phrase, the “subject area,” shall include, but not be limited to, the surface that SMITH slipped on, the foreign substance on the subject surface, the surrounding area, and all material and effects pertaining thereto, including any anti-slip/skid material that was applied or that should have been applied, and/or other parts thereof, drains that were or should have been in the area to reduce the amount of liquid in the area, any sources of liquid in the subject area and/or the sources of the liquid involved in SMITH’s incident, the area and surface’s design and/or visual condition, and/or any other applied, adhesive, and/or other material.

11. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL owned, leased, chartered, operated, maintained, managed, and/or controlled the subject area involved in SMITH’S incident.

12. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL owned, leased, chartered, operated, maintained, managed, and/or controlled the subject cruise ship, the *Vista*.

13. SMITH'S incident occurred on or about July 8, 2022, while she was a fare paying passenger on CARNIVAL'S vessel, the *Vista*.

14. On or about July 8, 2022, between approximately 2:00-3:00 p.m., SMITH slipped and fell on a foreign liquid substance/water that was on the floor on deck 11 portside and hit her head.

15. As a result, she sustained severe injuries that include, but are not limited to, a complete rupture of her right hamstring, a partial tear of her left hamstring, and head injuries, loss of consciousness, a possible traumatic brain injury, and other serious injuries which require surgery(ies).

16. The ship's medical crew unreasonably delayed in having SMITH brought to the medical center after her fall, and SMITH waited approximately forty-five minutes or longer for the medical staff to arrive at the scene of her incident, and another approximately ten minutes or longer for the medical staff to bring her a wheelchair. Ultimately, SMITH was taken to the medical center by wheelchair at or about approximately 16:18 UTC-5:00. The ship's doctor took x-rays, but failed to diagnose her injuries, including her head injuries. Moreover, SMITH was prescribed an insufficient amount of pain medicine for her trip home, such that CARNIVAL failed to control her pain, and she was in great pain for a longer amount of time.

17. At all relevant times, the dangerous and/or risk creating conditions include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. The foreign substance on the subject surface, which caused the subject surface to become unreasonably slippery, and which caused SMITH to slip and fall.
- b. The floor SMITH slipped on lacked adequate slip resistant material.

- c. There were no reasonable safety measures such as reasonable places SMITH could grab in the subject area during her fall.
- d. There was either non-existent drainage for the subject floor or any such drainage was not reasonably draining liquid from the subject area at the time of SMITH's incident.
- e. The unreasonable lack of policies and/or the unreasonable non-enforcement of such policies regarding the use of footwear that was more slip-resistant than SMITH's footwear in the subject area.
- f. There was no rug/carpet on the subject surface to prevent it from becoming slippery when wet.
- g. Other dangerous conditions that will be revealed through discovery.

18. Each of these dangerous conditions alone was sufficient to cause SMITH'S incident and injuries, and SMITH is alleging that CARNIVAL was negligent as to each of these conditions separately and not cumulatively.

19. CARNIVAL either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. SMITH observed a CARNIVAL crewmember in the subject area at the time of the incident, and this crewmember was in the immediate vicinity with a mop and immediately starting mopping after SMITH fell, such that SMITH reasonably infers that these crew members regularly used, observed, and tended to the subject area, and therefore were or should have been aware of the dangerous and/or risk-creating conditions thereof, and warned of and/or removed these conditions.
- b. CARNIVAL participated in the installation and/or design of the subject area, or

- alternatively, CARNIVAL accepted the area with its design defects present after having been given an opportunity to inspect the ship and materials on it, including the subject surface, such that CARNIVAL should have known of the design defects of the subject surface and area before providing them for public use. These design defects include, but are not limited to, the dangers outlined in paragraph 17 of this complaint.
- c. There are relevant safety standards/recommendations/other guidelines regarding the safety of the subject area, including, but not limited to, prohibitions and/or recommendations against the deficiencies discussed in paragraph 17 of this Complaint, and CARNIVAL should have known of these standards/recommendations/other guidelines because whether such standards/recommendations/other guidelines are legally required for CARNIVAL to comply with or not, a fact-finder is entitled to determine, if it so chooses, that these standards/recommendations/other guidelines show what a reasonable cruise line should have done.
- d. CARNIVAL also knew or should have known of these dangerous conditions through inspecting the subject area involved in SMITH'S incident, and if it did not know of these dangerous conditions, this was because CARNIVAL failed to adequately inspect the subject area prior to her incident.
- e. Previous passengers in prior cases suffered prior slip and fall incidents involving similar surfaces on the same ship and other ships in CARNIVAL'S fleet (including Carnival Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, Seabourn, P&O Cruises (Australia), Costa Cruises, AIDA Cruises, P&O Cruises (UK) and Cunard), including, but not limited to, *Kroll v. Carnival Corp.*, Case No. 1:19-cv-23017-JG,

Nembhard v. Carnival Corp., 1:19-cv-22954-FAM, *Tittle v. Carnival Corporation*, Case 1:21-cv-23647-KMW, and *Hornsberger v. Carnival Corporation*, Case 1:22-cv-20204-DPG.

- f. Moreover, CARNIVAL knew or should have known of these dangerous conditions for other reasons that will be revealed through discovery.

20. At all times relevant, the subject area was unreasonably dangerous, risk-creating, defective, improperly designed, improperly installed, and/or otherwise unsafe.

21. The subject area and the vicinity lacked adequate safety features to prevent or minimize SMITH'S incident and/or injuries.

22. These hazardous conditions were known, or should have been known, to CARNIVAL in the exercise of reasonable care.

23. These hazardous conditions existed for a period of time before the incident.

24. These conditions were neither open nor obvious to SMITH.

25. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL failed to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity for dangers, and CARNIVAL failed to adequately warn SMITH of the dangers.

26. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL had the ability to cure the deficiencies and to eliminate the hazards, but failed to do so.

27. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL failed to maintain the subject area and the vicinity in a reasonably safe condition.

28. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL participated in the design and/or approved the design of the subject area and the vicinity involved in SMITH'S incident.

29. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL participated in the installation and/or approved the installation of the subject area and the vicinity involved in SMITH'S incident.

30. The crewmembers of the *Vista* were in regular full-time employment of CARNIVAL and/or the ship, as salaried crewmembers.

31. CARNIVAL's crewmembers, employees, and/or agents were subject to the ship's discipline and master's orders, and CARNIVAL had the right to hire and fire its crewmembers, employees, and/or agents.

32. CARNIVAL is directly responsible and liable for their actions and the actions of its crewmembers, employees, and/or agents.

33. The crewmembers, including the medical staff, were employees and/or actual agents and/or apparent agents of CARNIVAL, and acted within the course and scope of their employment and/or agency agreement and/or relationship.

34. The crewmembers were represented to SMITH and the ship's passengers as employees of CARNIVAL through signs, documents, and/or uniforms. The crewmembers were also paid a salary and/or hourly wage by CARNIVAL. CARNIVAL knew that the crewmembers represented themselves to be employees of CARNIVAL and allowed them to represent themselves as such. SMITH detrimentally relied on these representations as SMITH would not have proceeded on the subject cruise had he believed the crewmembers were not employees of CARNIVAL.

COUNT I
NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO INSPECT

35. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

36. CARNIVAL owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

37. This duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty to provide its passengers reasonable care by adequately inspecting the subject area and the vicinity to make sure the subject area and

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the vicinity were reasonably safe for the use and enjoyment of its passengers.

38. At all times material, CARNIVAL, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with CARNIVAL breached the duty of reasonable care owed to SMITH and were negligent by failing to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were reasonably safe, such that the unreasonably risk creating and/or dangerous conditions discussed paragraph 17 of the instant Complaint were present at the time of SMITH'S incident.

39. CARNIVAL either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the reasons discussed in paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

40. These risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions were caused by CARNIVAL'S failure to adequately inspect the subject area and the vicinity to make sure the subject area and the vicinity were reasonably safe.

41. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

42. CARNIVAL'S negligence proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH'S injuries would not have occurred.

43. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S

vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

44. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

45. SMITH suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT II
NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO MAINTAIN

46. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

47. CARNIVAL owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

48. This duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty to provide its passengers reasonable care by adequately maintaining the subject area and the vicinity.

49. At all times material, CARNIVAL, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with CARNIVAL, breached the duty of reasonable care owed to SMITH and were negligent by failing to adequately maintain the subject area and the vicinity, such that the unreasonably risk

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creating and/or dangerous conditions discussed paragraph 17 of the instant Complaint were present at the time of SMITH'S incident.

50. CARNIVAL either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the reasons discussed in paragraph 19 of the instant complaint.

51. Moreover, these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions were caused by CARNIVAL'S failure to adequately maintain the subject area and the vicinity.

52. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

53. CARNIVAL'S negligence proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S negligence, her injuries would not have occurred.

54. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

55. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

56. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for

damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT III
NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO REMEDY

57. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

58. CARNIVAL owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

59. This duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty to provide its passengers reasonable care by adequately remedying the subject area and the vicinity.

60. At all times material, CARNIVAL, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with CARNIVAL, breached the duty of reasonable care owed to SMITH and were negligent by failing to adequately remedy the subject area and the vicinity, such that the unreasonably risk creating and/or dangerous conditions discussed in paragraph 17 of the instant Complaint were present at the time of SMITH'S incident.

61. CARNIVAL either knew or should have known of these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions, due to reasons that include, but are not limited to, the reasons discussed in paragraph 19 of the instant Complaint.

62. Moreover, these risk-creating and/or dangerous conditions were caused

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CARNIVAL'S failure to adequately remedy the subject area.

63. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

64. CARNIVAL'S negligence proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S negligence, her injuries would not have occurred.

65. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

66. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

67. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT IV
NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN OF DANGEROUS CONDITION

68. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

69. At all times relevant, CARNIVAL owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers, including SMITH.

70. Such duty includes, but is not limited to, the duty that CARNIVAL owes to warn passengers of any dangers that it knew or should have known were not open and obvious to SMITH.

71. Such duty also includes, but is not limited to, the duty to warn passengers of hazards, which passengers may reasonably be expected to encounter.

72. At all times material, CARNIVAL, through its vessel, crew, agents, employees, staff and/or representatives, who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with CARNIVAL, breached the duty of reasonable care owed to SMITH and was negligent by failing to warn SMITH of the dangerous conditions discussed in paragraph 17 of the instant Complaint.

73. Furthermore, CARNIVAL knew or should have known of these dangerous conditions for the reasons discussed in paragraph 19 of this Complaint.

74. These dangerous conditions were also created by CARNIVAL.

75. CARNIVAL failed to adequately ensure there were no dangerous conditions that passengers needed to be warned of, and/or CARNIVAL failed to warn SMITH despite knowing of the dangers.

76. These dangerous conditions existed for a period of time before the incident.

77. These conditions were neither open nor obvious to SMITH.

78. CARNIVAL'S breach was the cause in-fact of SMITH'S great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S breach her injuries would not have occurred.

79. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

80. CARNIVAL'S breach proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that the incident that occurred was a foreseeable result of CARNIVAL'S breach.

81. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

82. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

83. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of

independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT V
NEGLIGENT DESIGN, INSTALLATION, AND/OR APPROVAL OF THE SUBJECT
AREA AND THE VICINITY

84. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

85. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL owed a duty to its passengers, and in particular a duty to SMITH, not to permit dangerous conditions to be in places where they could harm passengers, such as those discussed in paragraph 17 in the instant Complaint, as well as to design and install reasonable safeguards.

86. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL participated in the design process of the subject vessel by generating design specifications for the shipbuilder to follow, and to put the vessel on which SMITH was injured into the channels of trade, and/or CARNIVAL approved of the subject vessel's design, including the design of the subject area and the vicinity.

87. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL manufactured, designed, installed, and/or approved of the *Vista*, including providing specifications to the shipbuilder in the original build process, and/or during its refurbishments, and as such owed a duty to its passengers, and in particular a duty to SMITH, to design, install and/or approve of the subject area and the vicinity without any defects.

88. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL through its agents and/or employees who were acting in the course and scope of their employment and/or agency with CARNIVAL, designed, installed, and/or approved of the subject area and the vicinity involved in SMITH'S

incident, which was also in violation of the applicable industry standards/recommendations and/or other guidelines.

89. CARNIVAL provides design elements of the vessels to the ship builder and/or approves of design elements which include the subject area and the vicinity.

90. CARNIVAL maintains the contractual right to participate, review, modify, and/or reject the design plans and drawings of the vessels, including the *Vista*, during the new build process.

91. CARNIVAL has the right to enter the ship and inspect it during construction to ensure that it is being constructed in accordance with the design specifications and has a right to insist on changes when safety concerns are identified.

92. CARNIVAL has the right to inspect and reject design elements before taking possession of the ship.

93. However, CARNIVAL permitted the dangerous conditions discussed in paragraph 17 of the instant complaint to be present in the subject area and the vicinity without correcting these design deficiencies and did not design and install reasonable safeguards.

94. Furthermore, CARNIVAL knew or should have known of these dangerous conditions for the reasons discussed in paragraph 19 of this Complaint.

95. The design flaws that made the subject area and the vicinity involved in SMITH'S incident unreasonably dangerous were the direct and proximate cause of SMITH'S injuries.

96. CARNIVAL is liable for the design flaws of the vessel, including of the subject area and the vicinity involved in SMITH'S incident, which it knew or should have known of.

97. CARNIVAL failed to correct and/or remedy the defective conditions, despite the fact that CARNIVAL knew or should have known of the danger(s).

98. CARNIVAL'S breach was the cause in-fact of SMITH'S great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S breach her injuries would not have occurred.

99. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

100. CARNIVAL'S breach proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that the incident that occurred was a foreseeable result of CARNIVAL'S breach.

101. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

102. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

103. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of

independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT VI
NEGLIGENCE FOR THE ACTS OF CARNIVAL'S CREW, STAFF, EMPLOYEES,
AND/OR AGENTS, BASED ON VICARIOUS LIABILITY

104. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

105. CARNIVAL owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

106. The crewmembers who were working in and/or who were and/or should have been responsible for inspecting, maintaining, cleaning, and/or securing the subject area, including specifically the crewmember who immediately started mopping right after SMITH fell, were agents of CARNIVAL for the following reasons:

- a. They were the staff and/or employees of CARNIVAL, or were CARNIVAL'S agents, apparent agents, and/or servants; and/or
- b. These staff, employees, and/or agents were subject to the right of control by CARNIVAL; and/or
- c. These staff, employees, and/or agents were acting within the scope of their employment or agency; and/or
- d. CARNIVAL acknowledged that these staff, employees, and/or agents would act on CARNIVAL'S behalf, and they accepted the undertaking.

107. CARNIVAL is vicariously liable for the acts of its staff, employees, and/or agents, as

discussed in paragraph 17 of the instant complaint.

108. CARNIVAL'S breach was the cause in-fact of SMITH'S great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S breach her injuries would not have occurred.

109. Furthermore, the subject area and the vicinity were also on a cruise ship in the water subject to numerous maritime conditions such as the ship's movement, additional wear-and-tear due to maritime conditions not necessarily present on land, waves, and other conditions unique to maritime travel, and as such were "clearly linked to nautical adventure."

110. This negligence proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for this negligence, SMITH'S injuries would not have occurred.

111. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

112. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

113. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of

independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT VII
VICARIOUS LIABILITY AGAINST CARNIVAL FOR THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE
SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF

114. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

115. CARNIVAL, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, owed a duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

116. Such duties include, but are not limited to, providing such medical care and assistance as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

117. At all times material, the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, were full-time employees and agents of CARNIVAL, subject to its direction and control, who were engaged in the activity of discharging CARNIVAL'S obligation to make such medical aid and assistance available to its passengers as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

118. CARNIVAL is estopped to deny that the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, were its agents and/or employees and/or servants.

119. CARNIVAL directly paid the ship's medical personnel and regular crew a salary (i.e., payment by time) for their work in the ship's hospital and in treating passengers.

120. CARNIVAL created, owned, directly provided, and operated, the medical center to

be used by the ship's medical personnel and passengers.

121. CARNIVAL pays to stock the medical center with all supplies, medical machinery, various medicines, and equipment to be used therein, regularly stocking and restocking same.

122. CARNIVAL collected all medical revenues directly from passengers and generated a profit on the sale of medical services, supplies, and equipment made by the ship's medical personnel to the passengers of the vessel.

123. CARNIVAL'S marketing materials described the medical center in proprietary language.

124. The ship's medical personnel were members of the ship's crew; they were subject to the ship's discipline; they were required to wear the ship's uniforms; they (and, in particular, the ship's physicians) were members of the ship's officer's compliment, and at all times they were subject to termination, or other discipline, by CARNIVAL.

125. CARNIVAL provided the ship's medical personnel and regular crew certain forms of liability insurance and/or indemnification rights.

126. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, was careless, negligent, and breached its duties as follows:

- a. The ship's medical center unreasonably delayed in having SMITH brought to the medical center, as SMITH had to wait approximately forty-five minutes for the medical staff to arrive at the scene of her incident, and another ten minutes for the medical staff to bring a wheelchair for her.
- b. After SMITH was taken to the medical center by wheelchair at or about approximately 16:18 UTC-5:00, the ship's doctor had x-rays taken of her,

but failed to diagnose her injuries, and said nothing was broken.

- c. Moreover, SMITH was prescribed an insufficient amount of pain medicine for her trip home, such that she was in great pain for a longer amount of time.
- d. CARNIVAL failed to promptly provide SMITH with proper medical and/or first aid care and attention.
- e. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly attend to SMITH, to her injuries, and to her pain.
- f. CARNIVAL failed to provide reasonable medical and/or first aid care.
- g. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly treat and care for SMITH.
- h. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly examine SMITH'S injuries.
- i. CARNIVAL failed to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for SMITH, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment.
- j. CARNIVAL failed to properly bring and/or arrange for SMITH to be brought to a reasonable hospital/emergency room within a reasonable amount of time.
- k. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH proper discharge instructions.
- l. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH adequate pain medicine.

127. Pain is a frequently experienced, yet oftentimes overlooked factor in wound care and wound healing. It is undeniable that pain affects wound care practice, and unresolved pain negatively impacts both wound healing and a patient's quality of life.

128. Under the doctrine of *Respondeat Superior*, employers are vicariously liable for the

negligent acts or omissions by their employees and/or other agents within the course of their employment and/or agency.

129. CARNIVAL is therefore vicariously liable for all injuries and damages sustained by SMITH as a result of the negligence of the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew.

130. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned acts and/or omissions on the part of CARNIVAL'S ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, fell below the standard of care.

131. The negligence of CARNIVAL'S ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL's negligence, SMITH'S injuries would not have occurred and/or said injuries would have been substantially lessened.

132. CARNIVAL, through its employees and agents, including the ship's medical staff, knew or should have known that the medical procedures they employed violated and/or did not meet reasonable standards of medical care.

133. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

134. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

135. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT VIII
APPARENT AGENCY
FOR THE ACTS OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF

136. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34, as if set forth herein.

137. At all times material hereto, the ship's medical staff and regular crew represented to SMITH and to the ship's passengers as employees and/or agents and/or servants of CARNIVAL, in that:

- a. The medical staff wore a ship's uniform;
- b. The medical staff ate with the ship's crew;
- c. The medical staff was under the commands of the ship's officers;
- d. The medical staff worked in the ship's medical department;
- e. The medical staff was paid a salary by CARNIVAL;
- f. The medical staff worked aboard the vessel;
- g. The medical staff spoke to SMITH as though they had authority to do so by CARNIVAL.

138. In addition, CARNIVAL further represented to SMITH that the vessel's medical staff

and regular crew were agents and/or employees of CARNIVAL through its marketing materials and through other official statements that described the medical center in proprietary language, including language such as the “Carnival *Vista*’s Medical Center/our infirmary/our medical center,” and through encouraging SMITH to make use of “its” infirmary/medical center if SMITH was in need of medical attention.

139. Furthermore, at no time did CARNIVAL represent to SMITH in particular, or the ship’s passengers in general, in a meaningful way that the vessel’s medical staff and regular crew were not agents or employees of CARNIVAL.

140. At all material times, SMITH reasonably relied on the representations to SMITH’S detriment that the medical staff and regular crew were employees, and/or agents, and/or servants of CARNIVAL.

141. It was reasonable to believe that the medical staff and regular crew were CARNIVAL’S agents because they wore a ship’s uniform. In addition, at all times material, the medical staff spoke and acted as though they were authorized to do so by CARNIVAL.

142. This reasonable reliance was detrimental because it delayed SMITH from receiving proper medical treatment and/or SMITH would not have gone on the subject cruise with CARNIVAL had SMITH known that the medical staff and regular crew on the ship were not CARNIVAL’S agents.

143. CARNIVAL is estopped to deny that the medical staff and regular crew were its apparent agents, and/or apparent employees, and/or apparent servants.

144. CARNIVAL had a duty to provide SMITH with reasonable care under the circumstances and through the acts of its apparent agents breached its duty to provide SMITH with reasonable care under the circumstances.

145. SMITH'S injuries were aggravated due to the fault and/or negligence of CARNIVAL through the acts of its apparent agents as follows:

- a. The ship's medical center unreasonably delayed in having SMITH brought to the medical center, as SMITH had to wait approximately forty-five minutes for the medical staff to arrive at the scene of her incident, and another ten minutes for the medical staff to bring a wheelchair for her.
- b. After SMITH was taken to the medical center by wheelchair at or about approximately 16:18 UTC-5:00, the ship's doctor had x-rays taken of her, but failed to diagnose her injuries, and said nothing was broken.
- c. Moreover, SMITH was prescribed an insufficient amount of pain medicine for her trip home, such that she was in great pain for a longer amount of time.
- d. CARNIVAL failed to promptly provide SMITH with proper medical and/or first aid care and attention.
- e. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly attend to SMITH, to her injuries, and to her pain.
- f. CARNIVAL failed to provide reasonable medical and/or first aid care.
- g. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly treat and care for SMITH.
- h. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly examine SMITH'S injuries.
- i. CARNIVAL failed to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for SMITH, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment.
- j. CARNIVAL failed to properly bring and/or arrange for SMITH to be

brought to a reasonable hospital/emergency room within a reasonable amount of time.

k. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH proper discharge instructions.

l. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH adequate pain medicine.

146. Pain is a frequently experienced, yet oftentimes overlooked factor in wound care and wound healing. It is undeniable that pain affects wound care practice, and unresolved pain negatively impacts both wound healing and a patient's quality of life.

147. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

148. The losses are either permanent or continuing in nature.

149. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

COUNT IX
ASSUMPTION OF DUTY FOR THE
NEGLIGENCE OF THE SHIP'S MEDICAL STAFF

150. SMITH hereby adopts and re-alleges each and every allegation in paragraphs 1 through 34 as if set forth herein.

151. CARNIVAL owed SMITH the duty to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances for the safety of its passengers.

152. Such duties include, but are not limited to, providing such medical care and assistance as would an ordinarily prudent person under the circumstances.

153. CARNIVAL elected to discharge this duty by having SMITH seen by its own ship's physicians and/or other crew members.

154. As such, CARNIVAL voluntarily assumed a duty for the benefit of SMITH to use reasonable care in the provision of medical services to SMITH.

155. At all times material hereto, CARNIVAL, through the ship's medical staff (including its physicians and nurses), and the ship's crew, was careless, negligent, and breached its duties as follows:

- a. The ship's medical center unreasonably delayed in having SMITH brought to the medical center, as SMITH had to wait approximately forty-five minutes for the medical staff to arrive at the scene of her incident, and another ten minutes for the medical staff to bring a wheelchair for her.
- b. After SMITH was taken to the medical center by wheelchair at or about approximately 16:18 UTC-5:00, the ship's doctor had x-rays taken of her, but failed to diagnose her injuries, and said nothing was broken.
- c. Moreover, SMITH was prescribed an insufficient amount of pain medicine

for her trip home, such that she was in great pain for a longer amount of time.

- d. CARNIVAL failed to promptly provide SMITH with proper medical and/or first aid care and attention.
- e. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly attend to SMITH, to her injuries, and to her pain.
- f. CARNIVAL failed to provide reasonable medical and/or first aid care.
- g. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly treat and care for SMITH.
- h. CARNIVAL failed to timely and properly examine SMITH'S injuries.
- i. CARNIVAL failed to take proper measures to secure proper treatment for SMITH, including unreasonably delaying taking measures to secure such proper treatment.
- j. CARNIVAL failed to properly bring and/or arrange for SMITH to be brought to a reasonable hospital/emergency room within a reasonable amount of time.
- k. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH proper discharge instructions.
- l. CARNIVAL failed to give SMITH adequate pain medicine.

156. At all times material hereto, the aforementioned acts or omissions on the part of CARNIVAL fell below the standard of care.

157. CARNIVAL'S negligence proximately caused SMITH great bodily harm in that, but for CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH'S injuries would not have occurred, would have been substantially lessened, and/or would not have been aggravated.

158. CARNIVAL, through its employees and agents, to wit, the ship's medical staff and

regular crew, knew, or should have known, that the medical and first aid procedures they employed violated reasonable standards of medical care.

159. As a result of CARNIVAL'S negligence, SMITH has suffered severe bodily injuries resulting in pain and suffering, disability, scarring, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of independence, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expense of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, and loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, and transportation costs.

160. The losses are permanent and/or continuing in nature.

161. SMITH has suffered these losses in the past and will continue to suffer such losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands judgment against Defendant, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC, for damages suffered and costs incurred, as well as for damages and costs that SMITH will suffer and incur in the future, as a result of her bodily injury, pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, scarring, mental anguish, hospitalization, medical care and treatment, nursing care and treatment, lost wages, lost earning capacity, loss of the value of SMITH'S vacation, cruise, transportation costs, loss of important bodily functions, loss of independence, and loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, for all court costs, pre- and post-judgment interest, and for any and all other relief which this Court deems just or appropriate.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, CHARLOTTE SMITH, demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: September 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Matthias M. Hayashi
Spencer M. Aronfeld, Esq.

ARONFELD TRIAL LAWYERS

Aronfeld.com
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Florida Bar No.: 905161

aronfeld@Aronfeld.com

Matthias M. Hayashi

Florida Bar No.: 115973

mhayashi@aronfeld.com

Abby H. Ivey, Esq.

Florida Bar No.: 1002774

aivey@aronfeld.com

ARONFELD TRIAL LAWYERS

One Alhambra Plaza, Penthouse

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

P: (305) 441.0440

F: (305) 441.0198

Attorneys for SMITH

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Aronfeld.com

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